

94-3936

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

DD/A Registry
File Reports
H Files

7 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John F. Blake, Deputy Director for
Administration

FROM : [] History Staff

STAT

SUBJECT : CIA History Program

STAT

REFERENCE : Memorandum by [] 30 September
1974, same subject

1. I had not been aware of [] memorandum until after the fact, and I wish to dissociate myself from it.

STAT

2. It had been my expectation to continue working on the history of CIA's involvement in Vietnam until mandatory retirement, 30 June 1976. The assignment is intensely interesting, and I have useful qualifications for it, including two degrees in History (AB and MA from Stanford) and, more to the point, a 26-month tour in Vietnam (1962-64) as well as tours at Headquarters and [] during both of which I worked full time on Vietnam from different vantage points. Moreover, I believe it would be useful to have this history on file in the hope of learning lessons from the successes and failures of the past.

STAT

3. It will certainly not be possible to finish the Vietnam history by 30 June 1975. As you can well imagine, the volume of available documents -- in CIA alone, not to mention related materials in the Departments of State and Defense -- is enormous. A further task will be careful interviewing of the large number of Agency personnel who have played important roles in Vietnam; many are still Staff Employees, either at Headquarters or overseas, and many others, who have retired, live in metropolitan Washington or within reasonable distance.

4. It will be a very real disappointment to me if I must leave CIA before I have been able to complete a creditable account of activities which for the past 15 years

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

have absorbed so much attention, manpower, and money. On personal grounds I hope that the decision with regard to the History Staff may be changed or that I may stay on for a time, as a contractor. In the face of increasing financial stringency and new Agency priorities, however, I cannot in good conscience protest a decision to terminate my project before its completion.



History Staff

STAT